March 20, 1997
(Justice)

Government reaches understanding with the RCMP

Chris Decker, Minister of Justice and Attorney General, announced today that an understanding has been reached with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) to achieve certain efficiencies and savings with respect to their operations in Newfoundland and Labrador. This understanding follows discussions held in March involving senior officials of the provincial Department of Justice, the RCMP and the Department of the Solicitor General of Canada.

The minister noted that the measures agreed upon by the province and the RCMP will not have any impact on front line policing services, nor will it involve any change in the jurisdiction of the RCMP or the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary (RNC).

The RCMP savings arise from ongoing efficiency initiatives which include district policing, prisoner escort services, etc, as well as cost annualization of previous decisions.

The Royal Newfoundland Constabulary will continue as a provincial police force, and maintain responsiblity for St. Johnps and the surrounding area, Corner Brook, and Labrador West, including Churchill Falls. The RCMP are responsible for all other areas of the province.

The minister commended both the RNC and the RCMP for providing exemplary policing services to the citizens of Newfoundland and Labrador.

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